

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FAA-00 SCCT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SY-05

L-03 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /056 W

----- 038628

R 300925Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, XX

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF STATE 212490

1. AIRPORT SECURITY AT WATTAY AIRPORT IN VIENTIANE FROM MOST APPEARANCES IS DIRECTED MORE TOWARD DEFENDING THE AIRPORT AS PART OF NATIONAL SECURITY THAN FROM ANY CONCERN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS OR HIJACKERS. TEENAGE SOLDIERS ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC AND SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS PATROL IN AND AROUND THE AREAS OF THE AIRPORT TO WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS ACCESS. A FEW GUARDS ARE LOCATED ON THE TARMAC AND USUALLY ACCOMPANY ARRIVING AND DEPARTING PASSENGERS FROM THE PLANE TO THE AIRPORT AND VICE VERSA. THE THOROUGHNESS OF INSPECTION OF LUGGAGE AND CARRY-ON BAGGAGE APPARENTLY DEPENDS ON THE WHIMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL GUARDS, BUT A POTENTIAL SABOTEUR WOULD HAVE TO GO TO SOME PAINS TO MAKE SURE HE COULD CONCEAL A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF EXPLOSIVES TO BE USED AS A BOMB. WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY SMALL HAND GUNS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO SMUGGLE ABOARD AN AIRCRAFT. PASSENGERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO A BODY SEARCH EITHER PHYSICALLY OR

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BY METAL DETECTOR PRIOR TO ENTERING THE TRANSIT

LOUNGE. THE TRANSIT LOUNGE IS SEPARATE FROM THE PUBLIC AREAS, AND ACCESS IS AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY CONTROLLED. AIRPORT PASSES ALLOWING ACCESS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE VERY EASY TO DUPLICATE. WITH ONE OF THESE PASSES AND A LITTLE BRASS, AN INDIVIDUAL COULD VIRTUALLY HAVE THE RUN OF THE AIRPORT. BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, SECURITY AT WATTAY IS WOEFULLY LACKING.
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